

Mrs. Robert Brewster

Hotel Paoli,
Florence
Lung' Arno Zecca

March 15, 1909

Dear Mabel

It is most distressing to hear of the death of your mother. I know how deeply you will feel the loss. She always seemed to me so strong and well - but pneumonia takes all, indifferently, feeble & robust. What a cursed disease it is! Perhaps some day we may learn its secret - we are on its track. Sylvia will miss the devotion of a grandmother, which means a great deal to a girl as she grows up & often gives a double measure of mother love. Please give your sisters my warmest sympathies. Curiously enough we were talking of you when your letter (forwarded from Oxford) came. Mrs. McCagg, an old friend of Lois Swans is here, and she asked how it was that we had become such friends & I was telling her of your appendix attack at Old Point. We have been here for two weeks - seeing the galleries under trying circumstances of cold & rain. We go to Bologna Venice & Padua and my plans are to sail from Naples on the 21st. I have not seen the boy since Xmas and now my heart begins to fail, and I may go to England and sail from Southampton April 14th. I will let you know.

With love to you both & a kiss for Sylvia

Affectionately yours

W^m Osler